

REMARKS

The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 4, 7 – 14, 17, 18, 22 – 25, 27 – 30, and 33 – 36 have been allowed in the Notice of Allowability dated April 16, 2007.

By this Amendment, claims 7 – 12 , 14, and 34 has been amended. Claim 37 has been added. Support for the amendments to claims can be found in Claim 34 as allowed and in at least Figures 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 and the descriptions thereof in the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 4, 7 – 14, 17, 18, 22 – 25, 27 – 30, and 33 - 37 are pending and respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Since Claims 17 – 33, 35, and 36 have not been amended, these claims should remain allowable for the reasons of record.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Previously, certain of the claims were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4, 763,505 to Klute et al (hereinafter Klute).

To the extent that these rejections might be considered to be applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants traverse the rejections and respectfully submit that all of the claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference.

Klute discloses a roll stand having supporting bars 3 and 4 provided with guide grooves 5 and 6 each receiving a foot 7 of an upper structural member 8 and a foot 9 of a lower structural member 10. Members 8 and 10 can be provided with various rolls in a four high configuration (Fig 1, working rolls 11,12, with un-shown backup rolls) or a six high configuration (Fig 2, working rolls 17, 18, intermediate rolls 19, 20, and un-shown backup rolls, note col. 3, lines 35 -36). There is no teaching of the same backup rolls being used in conversion from and to the four high and the six high configurations as claimed in Claim 34. Further, there is no teaching whatsoever of an eight high configuration as claimed in Claim 37.

As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that Klute does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the invention as recited in the method claims. Therefore, the Applicants submit that Claims 34 and 37 together with the claims dependent thereon are allowable over Klute.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be taught or suggested by the applied art of record. See M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Klute fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness for purposes of a rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, the claims are not rendered obvious in view of Klute and should be deemed allowable.

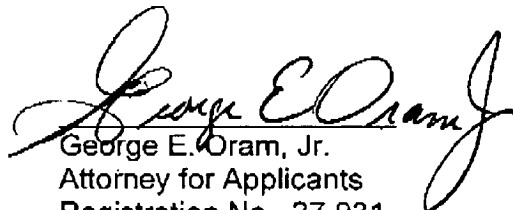
Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 4, 7 – 14, 17, 18, 22- 25, 27 – 30 and 33 - 37 are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and the prompt issuance of a fresh Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Dkt. No. 103120 -00066.**

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosure: Extra Claims Transmittal sheet
Request for Continued Examination

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